

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Listing of claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Original): An electronic camera, comprising:

an imaging device for outputting an image signal corresponding to an optical image;

an aperture member for restricting an incident light amount to said imaging device;

a first adjustment means for adjusting an exposure time period of said imaging device on the basis of a first part image signal belonging to a first part area assigned to a center of a screen out of the image signals output from said imaging device; and

a second adjustment means for adjusting an aperture amount of said aperture member on the basis of a second part image signal belonging to a second part area assigned to an end of the screen out of the image signals output from said imaging device.

Claim 2 (Original): An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein

said imaging device periodically outputs said image signals,

said first adjustment means adjusts a next exposure time period on the basis of the first part image signal included in the image signals currently output from said imaging device, and

said second adjustment means adjusts a next aperture amount on the basis of the second part image signal included in the image signals currently output from said imaging device.

Claim 3 (Original): An electronic camera according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising an evaluation means for evaluating brightness of the end of the screen on the basis of said second part image signal, wherein

said second adjustment means includes a comparison means for comparing an evaluated value obtained by said evaluation means with a threshold value, and an adjustment execution means for adjusting said aperture amount on the basis of a comparison result of said comparison means.

Claim 4 (Original): An electronic camera according to claim 3, wherein

said aperture amount indicates any one of a first amount and a second amount having a restricted amount larger than that of said first amount,

said comparison means includes a first determination means for determining whether or not said evaluated value is above a first threshold value when said aperture amount is said first amount, and a second determination means for determining whether or not said evaluated value is below a second threshold value smaller than said first threshold value when said aperture amount is said second amount, and

said adjustment execution means includes a second amount setting means for setting said aperture amount to said second amount when a determination result by said first determination means is affirmative, and a first amount setting means for setting said aperture amount to said first amount when the determination result by said second determination means is affirmative.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An electronic camera according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said imaging device has an imaging surface on which an optical black area and an effective area are provided,

said end of the screen is a portion placed on said effective area and adjacent to said optical black area.

Claim 6 (Original): An electronic camera according to claim 5, further comprising a clamp means for performing a clamping process on an image signal output from said imaging device at a timing corresponding to said optical black area.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Original): An exposure control method which is executed by an electronic camera having an imaging device outputting an image signal corresponding to an optical image and an aperture member restricting an incident light amount to said imaging device, comprising: a first adjusting step for adjusting an exposure time period of said imaging device on the basis of a first part image signal belonging to a first part area assigned to a center of a screen out of the image signals output from said imaging device; and

a second adjusting step for adjusting an aperture amount of said aperture member on the basis of a second part image signal belonging to a second part area assigned to an end of the screen out of the image signals output from said imaging device.